

21 Cornhill, Boston,

Friday 4 P. M., Oct 12/55.

Dear Mr. Higginson,

Yrs. of yesterday's date has just come to hand, and I thank you for answering so promptly the ~~inquiries~~ points presented in my letter. It does not seem to me, however,

^{that you} ~~to~~ meet all the difficulties of the case, and, with your permission, I will advert to them briefly. 1. Your letter fully exonerates Mr. Phillips from the burden of the charge which Mr. Swift brought against him, so far as his ^(P.'s) course was concerned at & after the alarm given in the meeting; but you do not, I think, quite meet the point whether he (W.P.) gave any pledge, to ^{pledge} any body, of aid at the Court house, which ^{he} subsequently failed to ~~meet~~ fulfil.

2. You say nothing of T. Parker, and leave it to be inferred therefore that he is not exonerated

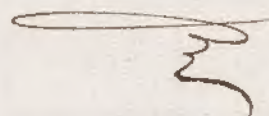
from the charge made by Mr. Swift, or, at least,
from the essential part of it, viz^t. of having
made a pledge or promise which he did not
redeem.

3. - The all-important features of that evening's
work, as I have always understood them, lie
back of the ~~period~~ ^{points of time} which you chiefly dwell upon
in your letter. I mean to say, that I have always
understood that, in the meeting of the Sub-Committee
of the Vigilance Committee (of which Sub-Committee you
were one) there was an unanimous agreement
not to make ~~to defer~~ the attack that night, and that the
platform should so speak to the meeting; that
you, with ^{the} others, agreed to this, & not only so, but that
you advocated it, as the wisest course. — If
this was the agreement & the general understanding,
there is no difficulty in accounting for the
confusion of minds & tongues which followed, ^{the alarm given in the meeting,} and

for the failure at the Court house; and no
blame can justly rest upon those at the Faneuil
Hall for not being in Court Square

I should be very glad, - as this subject is up
between us, - to learn from you what your
understanding was, before the commencement
of the meeting, of the decision to which the
Vigilance Committee, & its Sub-Committee, came.

Respectfully, Yours

Samuel May Jr


Points in answer to 1st question.

1. In case after necessary to reverse a ^{decision} plan, under some
circumstances or objections.

2. Especially where only negative decision to be reversed,
i.e. not to act.

3. In this case there were new circumstances, (1) objection of
surprise which had not been thought of. (2) found to be enforced at 9
(3) under some other. (4) merely extraneous.

4. The ~~Optical~~ Relation Committee was themselves the persons
concerned.

1st & 2d questions apparently assumed previously